

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BERN 01748 181006Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 MCT-01
/087 W
-----055268 190013Z /21

R 180930Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6100
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL ZURICH POUCH

UNCLAS BERN 1748

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, SZ
SUBJ: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED FED SECURITY POLICE

REF: A) 77 BERN 3834; B) BERN 301

1. AFTERNOON APR 15 IN BERN SOME 6,000 DEMONSTRATORS
PROTESTED PLAN TO ESTABLISH FED SECURITY POLICE (FSP)
WHICH WAS APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT IN MAR BUT IS SUBJECT
TO NATL REFERENDUM. DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED THROUGH OLD
CITY; SPEECHES WERE MADE BEFORE PARLIAMENT BUILDING.
LEADERS GENERALLY EXERCISED GOOD CONTROL OVER
PARTICIPANTS. EXTRA RIOT POLICE WERE ON HAND BUT NOT
USED DESPITE SOME PROVOCATION BY STONE THROWERS. SLOGANS
AGAINST FSP AND FED COUNCILOR FURGLER (JUSTICE AND
POLICE DEPT) WERE PAINTED ON BUILDINGS AND STREETS ALONG
MARCH ROUTE. SEVERAL DEMONSTRATORS WERE ARRESTED
BECAUSE OF MINOR DAMAGE TO SEVERAL CARS AND CITY BUS.
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WAS DISRUPTED FOR SEVERAL
HOURS.

2. DEMONSTRATION WAS ORGANIZED BY "SWISS COMMITTEE
AGAINST FORMATION OF NATL REPRESSIVE POLICE".
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PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED SOME 50 POLITICAL AND LABOR
GROUPS, EG.G., LABOR PARTY (COMMUNIST), SWISS
PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATION (POCH), REVOLUTIONARY
MARXIST LEAGUE, TYPE-SETTERS UNION, MANIFEST
DEMOCRATIQUE, WOMEN'S LIBERATION GROUPS, OPPONENTS
TO NUCLEAR ENERGY AND INDEPENDENT JURA MOVEMENT.

3. IN RELATED EVENT, "ACTION GROUP AGAINST FSP"
CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR TWO MOLOTOV COCKTAILS
NIGHT OF APR 12 THAT SERIOUSLY DAMAGED VOKSPARTEI'S
BERN HQS.

4. THIS WAS LARGEST SUCH DEMONSTRATION TO DATE.
WHILE MILD BY OTHER THAN SWISS STANDARDS, FOR AN
ISSUE OTHER THAN THE JURA IT WAS UNUSUAL IN A
COUNTRY THAT RARELY SEES DEFACING OR DAMAGE TO
PROPERTY.
WARNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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